

U.S. Appln. No. 09/899,767
Response and Amendment dated October 15, 2004
Reply to Final Office Action of September 14, 2004
Page 6 of 6

REMARKS

Claim 1 was amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable Claim 5 and intervening Claim 4. Claim 1 and Claim 3 were also amended to properly reflect the amendments of the preliminary amended submitted on July 3, 2001 with the filing of the present application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The Final Office Action states that Claims 5 and 11 are object to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, the limitations of Claim 5 and intervening claim 4 have been incorporated into Claim 1. Claims 2-12 and 33-34 depend from now allowable Claim 1. Claim 11 has been rewritten as new Claim 35, and new claims 36-48 depend from new Claim 35. The total number of claims is 27 and with the original filing having 32 claims, no additional fees are due.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is now believed to be in a condition for an allowance of all pending claims and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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